

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 02922 070001Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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UNCLAS WELLINGTON 02922

FOR: IOR IPS IBS, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: "WEST'S CHALLENGE IN AFRICA" MEDIA REACTION

1. THE WELLINGTON "DOMINION" IN ITS EDITORIAL ON JUNE
6 COMMENTED:

2. "IT IS CONSPICUOUSLY PLAIN THAT THE RUSSIAN AND
CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA IS IN NO WAY AS INNOCENT AS MR
BREZHNEV AND MR GROMYKO WOULD HAVE IT. TROUBLES IN THE
HORN OF AFRICA, IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND ON RHODESIA'S
NORTHERN BORDERS ARE EXACERBATED BY COMMUNIST INTRIGUE AND
MISCHIEF-MAKING.

3. "THE UNSTABLE PATTERN OF AFRICAN POLITICS IS THUS
SEEN TO FACILITATE COMMUNIST ENCROACHMENT. THE AMERICANS
HAVE COME SLOWLY TO THIS REALISATION. THEIR PREOCCUPATION
WITH GETTING MAJORITY RULE ESTABLISHED IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
HAS ENCOURAGED THEIR NEGLECT OF PRESSING SECURITY MATTERS
ELSEWHERE ON THE CONTINENT. WHILE PRESIDENT CARTER HAS
BEEN CASTING ROUND FOR A POLICY, THE PREVAILING POWER
VACUUM HAS SUCKED IN SOVIET INFLUENCE.

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4. "BELATEDLY, WASHINGTON, AT FRANCE'S, IF NOT SOUTH
AFRICA'S, PROMPTINGS, HAS COME TO RECOGNISE THE DANGER,
AND PRESIDENT CARTER LAST WEEK INVITED NATO TO EXTEND
ITS VIGILANCE TO AFRICA.

5. "IT SHOULD NOT BE THE WESTERN PURPOSE TO PRESERVE
UNJUST OR INADEQUATE GOVERNMENTS BEHIND A WALL OF BAYONETS.

IF THAT OCCURS, THE WEST, AS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE, WILL FIND
ITSELF ON THE WRONG SIDE IN POPULAR REBELLIONS IN WHICH
MALCONTENTS WILL TURN TO THE COMMUNISTS FOR HELP. THE
BANNER OF THE WEST MUST EXPRESS ITS CONCERN TO PROMOTE, AS
WELL AS SAFEGUARD, THE INTERESTS OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE."
ANDERSON

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